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**SUBMISSION FOR THE PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING INTO  
WALLARAH 2 COAL PROJECT**

Even though I have many things of importance that could have kept me away today, I am standing here today to speak up on behalf of my children. On behalf of your children, and on behalf of all of our children. I stand here with a heavy heart - a heart that threatens to lose hope, that the world to which my children belong, will be one worth living in. However overwhelming it is, I refuse to allow that heaviness to paralyse me. I continue instead to be guided by the truth that, ***the future does not belong to us, we are borrowing it from our children.***

I continue to stand up, for what is important for my children, and for Mother Earth, and to speak out, even as my voice shakes.

You as decision-makers, and all of us as concerned citizens, owe it to our children to make decisions for the future, ***that will leave a world that is enhanced by our actions.*** A world for them to flourish in. Not a world that has been raped, pillaged and destroyed. With every fibre of our being, as a collective culture, we owe it to the ancestors of this land that we walk on, and the ancestors of all our cultures, to honour those whom have given their lives, in custodianship of our Mother Earth and its environment. For the love of our children, and for our Mother Earth, we must cherish what we are borrowing, and ***do no more damage.***

The coal project that is known as the Wallarah 2 mine, has asked us as a community, to allow them to dig a massive hole deep into our earth, and to shatter the intricate underground eco-systems that exist there, to extract precious resources that will be sent up in smoke, and turned to dust. There are many promises in the paperwork, of "minimal damage", "offset measures", and "rehabilitation work" after the damage is done. Only the most foolish and greed-sick, would allow themselves to believe, that a mine of this magnitude going ahead, will leave our sacred land, our pristine water, and our children's future, undamaged. **To give our permission to this mining, is to deny that the whole landscape is interconnected, and inextricably intertwined.** You cannot dig a huge crater through the middle of Sacred Land, and think you are "protecting" anything. Except for the financial economic gain of "the corporation".

The people of this land, and of this community, have stood up and made their voices heard loud and clear, in saying "**We do not consent**" to our land, our water, our threatened species and habitats, being destroyed. It is time that we listen into the future, for the voices of our children. For it is no longer being spoken to us in whispers, that gently call to us from the quiet places. It is becoming a rising upswell of sound and movement, as the people of this country, of this Earth, follow the call in their own hearts, to stand up and say "We do not consent".

Just for the record, I wish to utter the words, even as my voice shakes, on behalf of all of our children, that "Myself and my children, do not consent to the Wallarah 2 Coal Mine - or **any** new natural resource mines - going ahead, in any way, shape, or form."

And I am willing to stand with whomever in this community wishes to join me - with burning heart, and peaceful action - to stand on the path that leads to charcoal ground, black rain and bleeding land, and say "**Not on my watch**". I will not stand by and be witness to your Ecocide.

The Earth is a living being. This Sacred Water and Land has a "***Right to Life***". As decision-makers, you can honour your role as Guardians and Trustees, by putting people and planet first, over and above corporate profit. By closing the door to dangerous industrial activity. And opening the door to that which affirms Life itself.

**\*\*WATER IS LIFE\*\***

**\*\*SACRED LAND IS OUR MOTHER\*\***

**\*\*THE FUTURE IS NOT OURS TO DESTROY\*\***

Thankyou for the opportunity to speak,

Yours in CommUnity,

Kelia Keogh xxx

5TH APRIL 2017, WYONG

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